

back. They broke up camp in dismay, burned their baggage, and precipitately retreated on Philadelphia.

But this picturesque valley is, after all, compared with the ride over the Alleghany Mountains, but as the work of the amateur likened to the *chef d'œuvre* of the master. Let us, therefore, return to the main line at Cumberland and scale the mighty barrier which the "B & O." was the first railway to overcome. Deeper and more sonorous the engine growls as it grasps the steel-clad slopes in its steep ascent, and more distant the river that runs in its rocky channel far below. Meanwhile the eye is delighted with what would seem to be an infinity of space were its width not limited by the walls of the gorge, on the rugged edges of which are to be found growing in scant soil the spruce and the pine. Progressing by slow degrees the engine is once more within the confines of mountain solemnity, and there is no other evidence of human existence than the scared rocks, the cross-ties, and the steel over which the way is made.

The ascent of the Alleghanies through wild mountain passes, where it would seem impossible to construct a road at all, is a very bold and striking piece of engineering—the glimpses of mountain glory and mountain gloom, of deep defile and towering hills, impress one with the majesty of Nature and the littleness of man. "How ever was that corn planted on the steep hill slope?" inquired a lady. "It must have been fired from a shot-gun," was the reply.

The ascent continues, and the aptly-named station Altamont comes into view. The mountains are now below, for the train has reached the summit and the eye roams at will over the billowy masses. The elevation is now nearly three thousand feet above tide-water, and the atmospheric change is at once perceptible.

Here, on the summit of the Alleghanies, a Chautauqua Assembly and summer resort has been established for the fugitives from the sweltering cities of Baltimore and Washington. Here is an ideal community occupying some two hundred wide-verandaed houses on a spacious area of 800 acres, enjoying an edifying, interesting and instructive programme of religious services, lectures and intellectual entertainments. It seems almost a veritable Mount of Transfiguration, above the world with its heats and its worries. One breaths an atmosphere of radiant purity and exhilaration and of moral elevation akin to that of heaven. The promoters of such assemblies, in thus providing for the families of their churches a summer home where they may acquire at the same time physical invigoration and moral inspiration, are doing a noble work for God and man.